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Breaking News

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High tech needed to improve airport security, says Honda

Airport security could be dramatically improved by using existing cutting edge technology such as fingerprint authentication, face and voice recognition and retinal scanning, says U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, D-San Jose, who Wednesday introduced legislation to encourage that development.

The attacks of Sept. 11 demand that Congress act decisively to cut through red tape and foster a direct dialogue between high tech companies and government agencies," Mr. Honda says. "By creating a framework where the most effective new technologies can be evaluated and implemented more efficiently we can create a more reliable and seamless security system for our nation's airports in a much shorter time frame."

The legislation proposes development of standards and measurements for biometric and other technologies at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Biometric technology, which is used to identify and authenticate an individual's identity based on unique physiological data such as fingerprints and retinas, remains one of the most promising new ways to improve security at airports, Mr. Honda says.

While a variety of biometric systems already exist, standards are needed to ensure their widespread use, he says.

"I am confident that by harnessing the innovative power of Silicon Valley we can cut down on travel delays and other burdens on commerce while improving security at our airports- our legislation is a positive step in this direction," Mr. Honda says in a written statement.



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